

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figures 3C,ED, 3E, 34, 35, 36 and 37 with the three Replacement Sheets provided. Please accept the Proposed Figures 38E through 38S provided in this Amendment.

REMARKS

Remarks Regarding Changing the Drawings

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Figures 3C,ED, 3E, 34, 35, 36 and 37 have been replaced with the three Replacement Sheets provided. The replacement sheets are the same as the originals except that the words "Prior Art" have been removed because these Figures are not prior art in this Application. To prove this, they have been shown originally in the parent Application, serial number 08/370,968, now patent 10number 6,552,780.

Please accept the Proposed New Figures 38E through 38S provided in this Amendment.

CFR 1.84(p)(5) Rejections

15 Examiner objects to drawings as failing to comply with CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 138 and 144a. However, Inventor believes that Examiner is mistaken as Figure 38A shows reference numeral 138. Proposed new Figures 38o, 38R and 38S show the adhesive 144A.

20CFR 1.83(a) Rejections

Examiner has objected under 37 CFR 1.83(a) that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, specifically;

25A) a method of forming a seal assembly (claims 31,33, 35 and 37) with the steps of:

1) adhering a release layer: this has been corrected by amending the claim. Adhesive, tape and transfer tape usually comes with a release liner already attached - thus, this step is not necessary as it is purchased before the manufacture process.

2) forming at least one kiss-cut in the release layer to generate a masking portion and a non-masking portion: this is shown in new proposed Figures 38E through 38S. Although the process was not depicted in the original drawings, original Figure and 38C shows a seal-insert with a kiss-cut fully through the release liner layer.

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3) removing the non-masking portion of the release layer: this is shown in new Figure 38o and the seal-insert with the non-masking portion fully removed is shown in new Figures 38R and 38S.

B) a method of forming a seal assembly (claim 32, 34, 36 and 38) with the steps of:

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1) providing a main body portion including a first layer defining a first opening, an adherent layer including a second opening in register with the first opening of the first layer: this is shown in new proposed Figures 38E through 38o. It is also shown mostly or all in original Figures 38A through 38D. It is also shown in original Figures 61 - 63, 65 and 65A.

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2) forming at least one kiss-cut fully through the release liner layer: this is shown in new proposed Figures 38E through 38S. Although the process was not depicted in the original drawings, original Figure and 38C shows a seal-insert with a kiss-cut fully through the release liner layer.

203) removing the non-masking portion of the release liner layer: this sequence is shown in proposed new Figures 38N - 38o to 38R and 38S.

4) adhering a layer of tear-able material: this sequence is shown in proposed new Figures 38R and 38S.

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Inventor has included the aforementioned Proposed new Figures and amendment of the Specification for the purpose of addressing the issues mentioned by Examiner.

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Specification

Abstract

5A new Abstract has been proposed which is shorter and is believed to comply with Examiner's requests.

Other Rejections

10In Figures 36 and 37, the words "Prior Art" have been removed as these Figures are from the original parent Patent serial number 08/370,968, now patent number 6,552,780, which was filed on 1-10-95. Similarly, the words "Prior Art" was also removed from Figures 3C, 3D, 3E, 34 and 35 for the same reasons. These Figures are in the original parent Patent.

15Examiner states that on page 46, line 19, "155?" is incorrect. The question mark is there because the sentence is a question, so no correction is required here.

Substitute Specification Under 37 CFR 1.125(a) Arguments

20On page 4 of Examiner's Office Action, Examiner states, " A substitute specification not including the claims is required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.125(a) because several pages of the specification have sentences in italics. This should be removed." Inventor has respectfully found only one paragraph with italics on page 49 and the word "this" is italicized in two instances within this single paragraph. Since there are only two words italicized in the same paragraph, 37 CFR 1.125(a) does not require a
25substitute specification, and for this reason, Inventor has made a normal amendment to the Specification.

Amendment of Specification

In the Summary of the Invention, information was added that was germane to the claims of the invention.

In the Brief Description of the Drawings section, descriptions of newly proposed Figures 38E through 538S were added. Also, added was descriptions of Figures 64A and 64B, which inadvertently were left out in the Application.

On page 36, line 27, the word "die" was changed to "dye" and the same was done on page 38, line 24.

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On page 49, a brief description of a die cutting and seal assembly manufacturing processes were inserted which use the newly proposed Figures 38E through 38S. It is believed that no new matter was added. Die-cutting and kiss-cutting were discussed throughout the patent application. This process has been described throughout the patent application, particularly on pages 44, line 25 through page 52, line 22. Just to cite some examples in this section, please note page 45, lines 22 through 27, where it states;

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When die-cutting the seal-insert 148, the die-cutting process can make a kiss-cut that cuts only through the liner and adhesive 144A and possibly slightly deeper of the shape as shown in region 147 whereby the adhesive can either be removed in these regions 147 and 150 as shown in Figure 38B or the adhesive 144A of the seal-insert 149 can be masked as shown in Figure 38C at regions 151 and 152.

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On page 48, lines 21 - 26, it states;

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With a die-cut controlling the dimensions of the mask 151 and 152 of the invention, every masked area is identical and optionally, the adhesive liner may be used as the mask, reducing the labor required, because this way, the laborer leaves the little piece of adhesive liner 151 and 152, 153 and 154 on the seal-insert 149 and 155 without guessing where to place the tiny piece of adhesive masking material.

On page 50, lines 1 - 5, it states;

Although this invention has been described, one embodiment is to make the seal assembly of that other patent but instead use the removal of adhesive at the tear opening 147 and 153 to control the initial seal tear, and also can use the kiss cut of the adhesive liner 151 or otherwise mask an entry portion of the adhesive in order to control the seal's initial tear.

On page 52, lines 15 to 17, it states;

To further improve the device and process, inventor also recently developed the die-cutting where the adhesive will be either masked or removed as shown in Figures 38B through 38 D, already described...

Finally, in the original Abstract filed, it states on lines 9 - 19;

The adhesive masking may be further improved upon by using the very release liner, an ingredient of some adhesive tapes, that is already on the tape to mask the adhesive at the initial tearing and/or final tearing area, or any other location where the magnitude of the pulling force is to be reduced. This adhesive masking using the release liner can be even further improved by forming precise adhesive masking during the same die-cutting process when a component of the seal is formed, and thus does not require an extra step, but rather uses a die that does both functions of cutting a component and kiss-cut-forming an adhesive mask, all in one die-cut step. Thus, labor is saved. These seal assembly improvements may be implemented in the overall manufacture of a toner hopper, toner cartridge and/or an image forming apparatus.

Thus, Inventor believes that the drawings and descriptions added are supported in the previously disclosures of this patent application. Die-cutting is discussed, rotary die-cutting was discussed, kiss-cutting was discussed, the manufacturing process was discussed whereby the kiss-cut of the masking

portion of the release liner was discussed as being done in the same operation as cutting the seal-insert.

Italics noted by Examiner: The italics of the paragraph on page 49, second paragraph have been corrected by removing italics from two instances of the word "this".

Inventor has complied with Examiner in making this Application in good condition.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, are clearly distinguishable over the prior art and are allowable. Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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